

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 01792 282016Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /083 W

----- 128535

O 281737Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 214

UNCLAS PANAMA 1792

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJ: UPI ARTICLE ON TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MARCH 25 UPI ARTICLE BY LOCAL
CORRESPONDENT PAUL WYATT. FULL TEXT OF RICARDO LINCE
EDITORIAL ON SAME SUBJECT IN MARCH 27 EDITION OF
MATUTINO AVAILABLE IN FBIS ITEM 2722032 MARCH 74.

BEGIN TEXT

2. KEY U S CONGRESS MEMBERS WANT ANY NEW PANAMA CANAL
TREATY TO GIVE THE UNITED STATES THE RIGHT TO BUILD A
SEA-LEVEL CANAL ACROSS PANAMA, MOREY BELL, DEPUTY U S
NEGOTIATOR FOR THE TREATY TALKS, SAID MONDAY.

"A FEW INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE LET US
KNOW THEY THINK THIS (THE RIGHT TO BUILD A SEA-LEVEL
CANAL) IS VERY IMPORTANT," SAID BELL, WHO ARRIVED HERE
FROM WASHINGTON TO CONTINUE THE TALKS. CHIEF U S
NEGOTIATOR ELLSWORTH BUNKER IS SCHEDULED TO JOIN BELL
NEXT MONDAY.

BELL DID NOT NAME THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO WHOM
HE WAS REFERRING. BOTH THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE WILL
HAVE TO APPROVE ANY NEW TREATY, SINCE IT IS EXPECTED
TO INVOLVE THE TRANSFER OF U S PROPERTY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PANAMA 01792 282016Z

"THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL WATERWAY, CRITICAL TO THE WHOLE WORLD," BELL SAID. "ANY ARRANGEMENT WE MAKE HAS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE WORLD'S INTERESTS 10 OR 15 YEARS FROM NOW."

BELL SAID THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT TAKEN A DEFINITE DECISION YET ABOUT BUILDING THE SEA-LEVEL CANAL, ADDING THIS WOULD DEPEND ON WHEN THE CANAL REACHES ITS CAPACITY. THIS WON'T HAPPEN FOR MANY YEARS, HE SAID.

A PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATOR, DIOGENES DE LA ROSA, SAID HERE LAST WEEK HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THE UNITED STATES COULD INSIST THAT THE SEA-LEVEL CANAL ISSUE BE INCLUDED IN THE PRESENT TALKS IF IT HASN'T TAKEN A FINAL DECISION YET WHETHER TO BUILD IT.

"I'M AFRAID PANAMA BELIEVES THAT WE WANT TO TAKE THIS DECISION IN ISOLATION OF PANAMA," BELL SAID.

WHAT THE UNITED STATES IS SEEKING IS "A PARTNERSHIP WITH PANAMA. HE SAID PANAMA WOULD BE "CONSULTED" ON THE QUESTION. AT ANOTHER POINT IN HIS REMARKS TO REPORTERS, HE SAID THE UNITED STATES WANTS "A WAY OR A MEANS LOW TO DECIDE" THE ISSUE INCLUDED IN THE NEW TREATY.

"WE ALSO HAVE VERY IMPORTANT SECURITY INTERESTS AND WE ARE NOT ABOUT TO FORGET THOSE. I BELIEVE PANAMA IS COGNIZANT OF THOSE INTERESTS. IN FACT, THOSE SECURITY INTERESTS TOUCH VERY CLOSELY ON THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE ENTIRE HEMISPHERE," HE SAID.

LEGISLATION TO TRANSFER TO PANAMA JURISDICTION NOW EXERCISED BY THE UNITED STATES OVER OLD AND NEW FRANCE FIELD ON THE ATLANTIC SIDE OF THE ISTHMUS WILL BE INTRODUCED BY THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IN CONGRESS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, BELL SAID.

ANOTHER BILL TO ENABLE PANAMA LOTTERY TICKETS TO BE SOLD IN THE US-CONTROLLED CANAL ZONE IS BEFORE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PANAMA 01792 282016Z

THE HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE, HE SAID.

THE FATE OF THESE BILLS, AND ESPECIALLY THOSE TO TRANSFER JURISDICTION OVER THE TWO AIRFIELDS TO PANAMA "CAN BE CONSIDERED A TEST OF A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SENTIMENT" IN CONGRESS, BUT "CERTAINLY NOT A TEST FOR THE NEW TREATY," BELL SAID. END TEXT.

DANIELS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, AGREEMENTS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, NEGOTIATIONS, INTERNATIONAL CANALS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PANAMA01792
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740068-0078
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974037/aaaaagtq.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UPI ARTICLE ON TREATY NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005